

ITEM# \_\_\_\_\_

PREPARED BY: Lou Geater

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant County Attorney

**RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF  
AN OFFICIAL FILM INDUSTRY ALLIANCE BETWEEN MEMPHIS AND  
SHELBY COUNTY AND BERLIN-BRANDENBURG, GERMANY.  
SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONER J.W.GIBSON, II.**

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WHEREAS, Both Memphis & Shelby County and Berlin-Brandenburg have each enjoyed long histories of film production --- including box office hits...film classics... and award-winning pictures – both studio and independent; and

WHEREAS, Both Memphis & Shelby County and Berlin-Brandenburg were early pioneers in hosting major and important film productions – both areas' film histories dating back to the late 1920s --- Memphis & Shelby County having been the site of the Oscar-nominated all-black musical, King Vidor's Hallelujah! and Berlin-Brandenburg having been the site of Fritz Lang's Metropolis; and

WHEREAS, The offices of both the Mayor of Memphis, Dr. Willie W. Herenton, and the Mayor of Shelby County, A C Wharton, Jr., Esquire, have both expressed an interest in developing an "on-going exchange" or "alliance" between Memphis-Shelby County and Berlin-Brandenburg for the purposes of economic development and cultural exchange; and

WHEREAS, The offices of both the Honorable Marsha Blackburn, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, 7th Congressional District of Tennessee, and the Honorable Steve Cohen, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, 9th Congressional District of Tennessee, have directly aided and encouraged the development of said "alliance"; and

WHEREAS, The Memphis & Shelby County economic development initiative, Memphis Fast Forward/MemphisED have supported such an "alliance" as beneficial to the further development of the Memphis & Shelby County film industry and leading to the possibility of film industry exchange with shared productions, training, employment opportunities, and funding incentives; and

WHEREAS, The Office of the Mayor of Berlin has encouraged not only exchange with the film industry of Memphis & Shelby County, but has also encouraged exchange between our music industries; our institutions of higher learning for film and music; our museums; our black communities; and our Jewish communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, That the worthiness of

further exchange and the development of an official alliance between Memphis & Shelby County and Berlin-Brandenburg be both encouraged and supported and the efforts of Memphis Fast Forward , MemphisED, the Memphis & Shelby County Film Commission, the Memphis & Shelby County Music Commission, and, individually, Memphis Fast Forward/MemphisED Chairman Tom Schmitt, MemphisED administrator Reid Dulberger; Memphis & Shelby County Film Commissioner Linn Sitler; Memphis & Shelby County Music Commissioner Johnnie Walker; the first film industry “exchanger” Julia Donner and her Memphis “host parents” Karl and Gail Schledwitz; and Berlin-Brandenburg’s film commissioner, Christiane Raab, be recognized for their individual efforts to date to develop the alliance between the two areas and be encouraged to continue.

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A C Wharton, Jr., County Mayor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

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Clerk, County Commission

ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_